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LA NAISSANCE DU CHEVALIER AU CYGNE, ou les enfants changés en cygnes. French poem of the twelfth century, published for the first time, together with an inedited prose version, from the MSS. of the National and Arsenal libraries at Paris. With Introduction, Notes, and a Vocabulary. By HENRY ALFRED TODD, Ph. D., Associate in the Romance Languages, Johns Hopkins University. The Modern Language Association. 8vo. Pp. xv., 120, 18.

The publication of this interesting romance, presumably of the last years of the twelfth century, is in the highest degree creditable both to the editor and to the Modern Language Association. Regarded as literature, the poem appears to us superior to the version already edited by Hippeau ; it is true that the latter takes in a greater part of the legend, but on the other hand the presentation of the Swan Knight, in that form of the story, has been influenced by the "Perceval" of Christian of Troyes. Notes and a glossary make the text easy reading. As to the legend, with which alone we are concerned, the editor contents himself with giving an outline of the principal versions. Wagner's "Lohengrin" has made the Swan Knight a character familiar to modern opera-goers, while Grimm's tale of "The Seven Swans" gives a form of the legend generally familiar. "Lohengrin" has something to do with Lorraine ; it would seem that the notion that the Swan Knight really was an ancestor of Godfrey de Bouillon prevailed in the Low Countries, and that it was there that Johannes de Alta Silva, in the twelfth century, became acquainted with it, and used the tale to fill a gap in his translation of "The Seven Wise Masters," — "Dolopathos," as he called the book. Thus we have, in the pages of the latter, a genuine folk-tale of the twelfth century, told with many variations ; these remain in the literary forms, one of which, much decorated and softened, survives in the really charming poem we are considering. The central idea, the belief that fairies (or by whatever other name these supernatural beings may be called) appear in the form of birds, is well-nigh universal, and not especially a Norse or German conception. As to the association of romantic ideas with a white swan, we may cite a proverb applied by Johannes himself to the good bishop to whom his work is dedicated : *Rara avis in terris alboque simillima cigno*.

W. W. N.

AMONG CANNIBALS. An Account of Four Years' Travels in Australia, and of Camp Life with the Aborigines of Queensland. By CARL LUMHOLTZ, M. A., Member of the Royal Society of Norway.

A year passed among a cannibal tribe which had never seen a white man could not fail to give occasion for many interesting observations. A striking picture is given of the external condition and mental character of the natives of Queensland. We are shown the Australian, as a being very intelligent within narrow limits, possessed of marvellous skill to find his way in the forest, to track game, and discover animal life where none is visible to the perception of Europeans ; gluttonous and selfish, but generous, and, like all savages, valuing possessions and food chiefly as a means of